



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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BLOCKBUSTER CONTEST AGAINST FAMILIAR FOES

India have the chance to make a big statement against Pakistan in their first match at the Asia Cup on Sunday

BATTLE OF SPINNERS

India are well stocked with Yuzvendra Chahal, R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja. For Pakistan, Usman Qadir and Shadab Khan will do a lot of heavy-lifting. Shaheen Afridi & Jasprit Bumrah are missing.

EYES ON AZAM & KOHLI

It's hard to not state the one obvious contest even if it won't be a direct confrontation. One is in-form, the other took a break to recharge his batteries, yet their roles will be crucial

INDIA'S NEW-FOUND APPROACH

After being an analog batting unit in the digital age, the new management have come with a more modern, front-foot, top-heavy approach. That's paid off in the assortment of matches they have played since the T20 World Cup but it faces a stiff test against a high-quality bowling attack | P11



7:30 PM

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As China threat deepens, Army sharpens LAC focus

Infrastructure, capacity building in full swing along border areas

MYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

WHILE the India-China border dispute remains unresolved, the Indian Army is slowly but surely heightening its focus on the Line of Actual Control. According to highly placed sources, the focus currently is to build better infrastructure and procure equipment to support the forces deployed in the high-altitude terrain. "There is a focused review of the infrastructure and the capacity building all along the northern borders," said a senior official.

The Army's focus on the LAC gained traction after Lt Gen Manoj Pande chose Ladakh to be the first location to visit after taking over as the Chief of Army Staff in April. Again, in June, he went on a three-day forward area visit to Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

India and China have been locked in a protracted stand-off in eastern Ladakh since May 2020. Although disengagement has taken place in some areas, troops are reportedly still present at Hot Springs, Depsang and Demchok.

India is also raising the



weapon profile by adding modern offensive systems and working on the faster mobility of troops. According to military sources, India takes the threat on the northern borders extremely seriously.

The Army is in the process of procuring 18 Articulated All-Terrain Vehicles for mobility and mounted artillery guns to be deployed along the LAC.

Military experts are gung-ho about India's moves. "If you don't want China to launch an offensive, you have to make them realise that not only can you withstand their offensive but can also come down heavily on them," said Major General S B Asthana (Retd).

'India can help counter China'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

The US looks at India as a crucial partner to counter China's expansionist ambitions, according to America's highest-ranking Navy officer, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Mike Gilday. "The fact that India and China currently have a bit of a skirmish along their border... is strategically important," Gilday said at an event in Washington.



According to a recent report by *Nikkei Asia*, US strategists believe the border clashes between India and China pose a two-front problem for Beijing. In other words, a strong India can disrupt China's plans to invade Taiwan.

Gilday's comments come ahead of the India-US military exercise in Uttarakhand near the China border in October.

Driver, domestic help, secretarial staff among freebies for SC judges

SHRUTI KARKAR @ New Delhi

LIFE after retirement has become more comfortable for Supreme Court judges as the Centre further amended the Supreme Court Judges Rules, 1959. According to the latest changes, retired Chief Justices of India will get lifetime domestic help, chauffeur and secretarial assistant, besides round-the-clock security cover at home and a personal guard for five years.

In the case of other retired SC judges, they will get lifetime domestic help, chauffeur and secretarial assistants for lifetime but the 24x7 security cover at home and personal security guard will be available only for a period of three years from the date of retirement.

The rules were earlier amended on August 23 to offer domestic aides and secretarial assistants to Supreme Court judges for one year from the date of retirement.

The benefits have now been made lifetime. The latest amendments also offer retired CJIs a type-VII rent-free accommodation in Delhi (usually provided to MPs who have been former Union ministers) for six months from the date of retirement. This is in addition to the official residence.

NEW PERKS

Rent-free six-month accommodation in Delhi for retired chief justices

Round-the-clock security cover at home and a personal guard for 5 years for retired CJIs and 3 years for retired SC judges

Further, the government will bear up to ₹42,000 plus taxes per month as expenses incurred by retired SC judges, including CJIs, as charges for use of residential telephone, mobile phone, broadband, mobile data or data card. That's not all. If they are travelling by air, a retired CJI or a retired judge of the top court is already provided a "higher grade" security on the basis of threat perception, "the higher grade security already provided shall continue".

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U U Lalit sworn in as 49th Chief Justice of India

New Delhi: Justice Uday Umesh Lalit was on Saturday sworn in as the 49th Chief Justice of India (CJI). President Droupadi Murmu administered him the oath during a brief ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. As the CJI, Justice Lalit will have a tenure of 74 days and would demit office on November 8 on attaining the age of 65 years.



Justice U U Lalit takes oath of office at the Rashtrapati Bhavan | P11

Shivamogga stabbing accused has links with banned JeM

BALA CHAUNAN @ Bengaluru

MOHAMMED Zabiullah (30), the main accused in the stabbing of Prem Singh (20) during the Independence Day clashes which broke out over a poster of Hindutva ideologue Veer Damodar Savarkar at Ameer Ahmed Circle in Shivamogga, has reportedly been "indoctrinated by the Pakistan-based banned terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) to engineer violence in the state," said highly placed sources.

Zabiullah was arrested along with Tanveer Ahmed (22), Nadeem Faisal (25) and Abdul Rehman (25) in connection with the case.

"Zabiullah allegedly has several audios and videos of JeM founder, India baiter and UN designated terrorist - Maulana Masood Azhar, JeM financier and recruiter - Farhatullah Ghauri alias Abu Sufyan, and former chief of al Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), Sanaul Haq alias Asim Umar, who was killed by the US-Afghan forces in Afghanistan in September, 2019, among other terrorists and terrorist organisations in his phone."

"He has also downloaded a book on jihad," said sources on condition of anonymity. His phone is now in the custody of the police and will be sent for forensic examination.

"Since Zabiullah is undergoing treatment at McGann Hospital (he was shot in the leg by the police after he tried to escape), the police have not been able to obtain his custody from the court for interrogation. It is not clear who is indoctrinating him using these highly-inflammable audios and videos," said sources.

CONTINUED ON: P5



With heavy rain causing lakes to overflow and flood roads in Mandya district, locals catch fish that swept onto the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR

B'luru-Mysuru highway flooded after lake breach

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

VEHICULAR traffic on the busy Bengaluru-Mysuru highway was thrown out of gear due to flooding following heavy rain and ongoing road work on Saturday. The highway was flooded after a breach in Kanmanike lake near Kumbalgodu near Bidadi. The newly-constructed toll booth was also flooded due to the lake breach. Those heading to their hometowns in Mysuru, Mandya and Kodagu for the weekend and for Ganesha Chaturthi festival were hit by the disruption in traffic movement and had to take a detour.

Ramanagara District Police diverted traffic to an alternate route for three days, starting

Saturday. Vehicles plying between Bengaluru to Mysuru will have to travel via Kanakapura or Kunigal.

Heavy rain led to stagnation of water on many stretches of the highway where road work is in progress.

"It is not safe to allow vehicles, especially during night", said sources in the police department.

"We have diverted movement of vehicles. It takes many days to remove water from the road," sources said.

Heavy rain over the last few days have also delayed work on the ongoing Bengaluru-Mysuru Express Corridor and is likely to discourage tourists visiting Mysuru during Dasara next month.

Pocso case against seer; plaint against ex-admin too

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a shocking case that is suspected by followers to be a conspiracy against the pontiff of Chitradurga's Sri Murugha Mutt, Dr Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, a case under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) has been registered against the seer and four others on Friday at Mysuru's Nazarbad police station.

Two girl students studying at a school run by the mutt made allegations to Mysuru-based NGO, Odanadi, about the pontiff sexually abusing them. The

NGO brought it to the notice of the district children welfare committee.

The committee, after an inquiry, directed the Legal Commission Probation Officer/District Child Protection Unit to lodge a complaint with the police under POCSO Act against the seer and four others.

Apart from the seer, the FIR registered under the POCSO Act also names Rashmi, the



warden of Akkamahadevi hostel located at Murugha Mutt in Chitradurga, junior pontiff Basavadhitha, Paramashivaiah and Gangadharaiyah.

Mysuru's Nazarbad police have registered a case and transferred it to the police in Chitradurga, where the alleged incident took place.

In the First Information Report (FIR), the Child Protection Unit Probation officer, C Chandrakumar, said the class 10 girls, aged 15 and 16, were studying at a school and staying at the hostel under the aegis of Murugha Mutt, and alleged that the seer was sexually abusing the two students for more than three years.

CONTINUED ON: P4

EXPRESS READ

Accused jumps from 3rd floor of hosp, dies

Kalaburagi: In a bid to escape police custody, an accused who was taken to the District Government Hospital here for Covid testing, jumped to his death from the third floor of the hospital, the police said on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Murna alias Shekh Sohel.

CWC to meet today to discuss party prez polls

New Delhi: The Congress Working Committee will meet on Sunday to approve the schedule of dates for the polls of the next party president. This comes in the backdrop of Ghulam Nabi Azad's resignation, and CWC members could express confidence in the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi during the meet.



Hemant Soren and MLAs leave in a bus after a meeting in Ranchi on Saturday | P11

As political turmoil deepens, J'khand MLAs go picnicking

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

AMID the political turmoil in Jharkhand due to the possible disqualification of Chief Minister Hemant Soren over alleged violation of office-of-profit rules, the UPA MLAs and ministers on Saturday went on a picnic to Khunti, about 40 km from Ranchi, and then returned to the state capital to attend a meeting at the chief minister's residence.

After the meeting, the MLAs were reportedly taken to the Dumargarhi Guest House in Khunti in two buses by Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

According to political observers, the exercise is a message to the BJP: "UPA MLAs are intact

and there is no threat to the government. Congress MLAs are with Hemant Soren," said state Congress in-charge Avinash Pandey, who has already reached Ranchi.

It is widely believed that Soren may take these MLAs to neighbouring Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh or some other destination to avert any possible horse trading by the BJP.

JMM insiders told this paper that they were compelled to resort to 'resort politics' to protect their government from the possible horse trading.

Newly elected Rajya Sabha MP Mahua Maji said it is an effort to keep the MLAs intact in the wake of the BJP's 'Operation Lotus'.

Why hands that rock the cradle snuff out lives of their own kids

BALA CHAUNAN @ Bengaluru

IN a shocking series of incidents, three cases of maternal filicide (mother killing her child) were reported between August 4 and August 22 in Bengaluru city. Two of the three cases involve mothers who are dentists.

One of them surrendered before the police, the other died by suicide after she allegedly killed her 10-year-old daughter and the third - a homemaker - is battling for her life in a hospital ICU after a failed suicide attempt.

"Cases of maternal filicide are extremely disturbing. They highlight the unmet mental health needs of mothers and the skewed gender approach in child rearing in India. The burden of childcare often falls on the mother. The expectations from her are huge from her own family and society, without looking or addressing her own physical and mental health," said Prof Prabha S Chandra, Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS).

"If the child has a developmental disorder or serious



health problem, the mother not only has an additional burden of looking after the child, she also faces stigma and criticism from her family and society at large. A child with developmental disorder or serious health issues needs support from within the family and from the health system. These are often not available or are not easily accessible," added the senior psychiatrist, who is also the President Elect of International Association for Women's Mental Health (IAWMH).

Chandra explained, "Moth-

ers who take the extreme step of filicide are often depressed or have other mental health problems, lack adequate social, physical and emotional support or face domestic violence and other forms of family stress. They may also feel lonely in their role as a parent, worry excessively, lose sleep and be physically exhausted if the young child has a lot of needs and hence feel helpless and hopeless. We must look at all the factors that drove these mothers to take such extreme steps."

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